



**Built in Christ Jesus:**

**We Have One Master  
(Ephesians 6:5-9)**



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# New Testament Background:

## Roman Slavery



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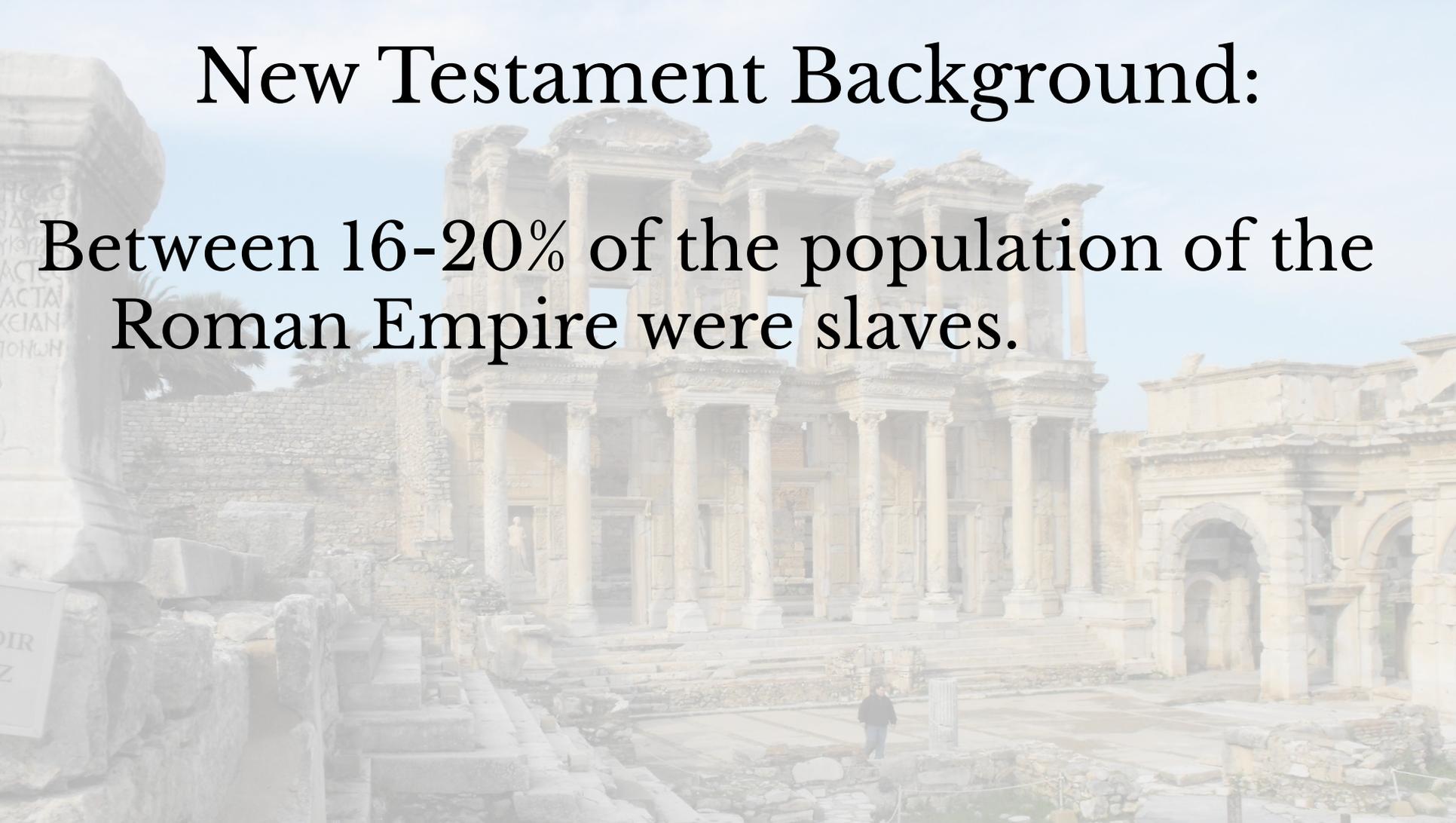
The number of slaves in Rome was 25-40%, some saying as high as 80% of its 1.2 million inhabitants.

Thus, approximately 400,000 slaves lived in Rome.



# New Testament Background:

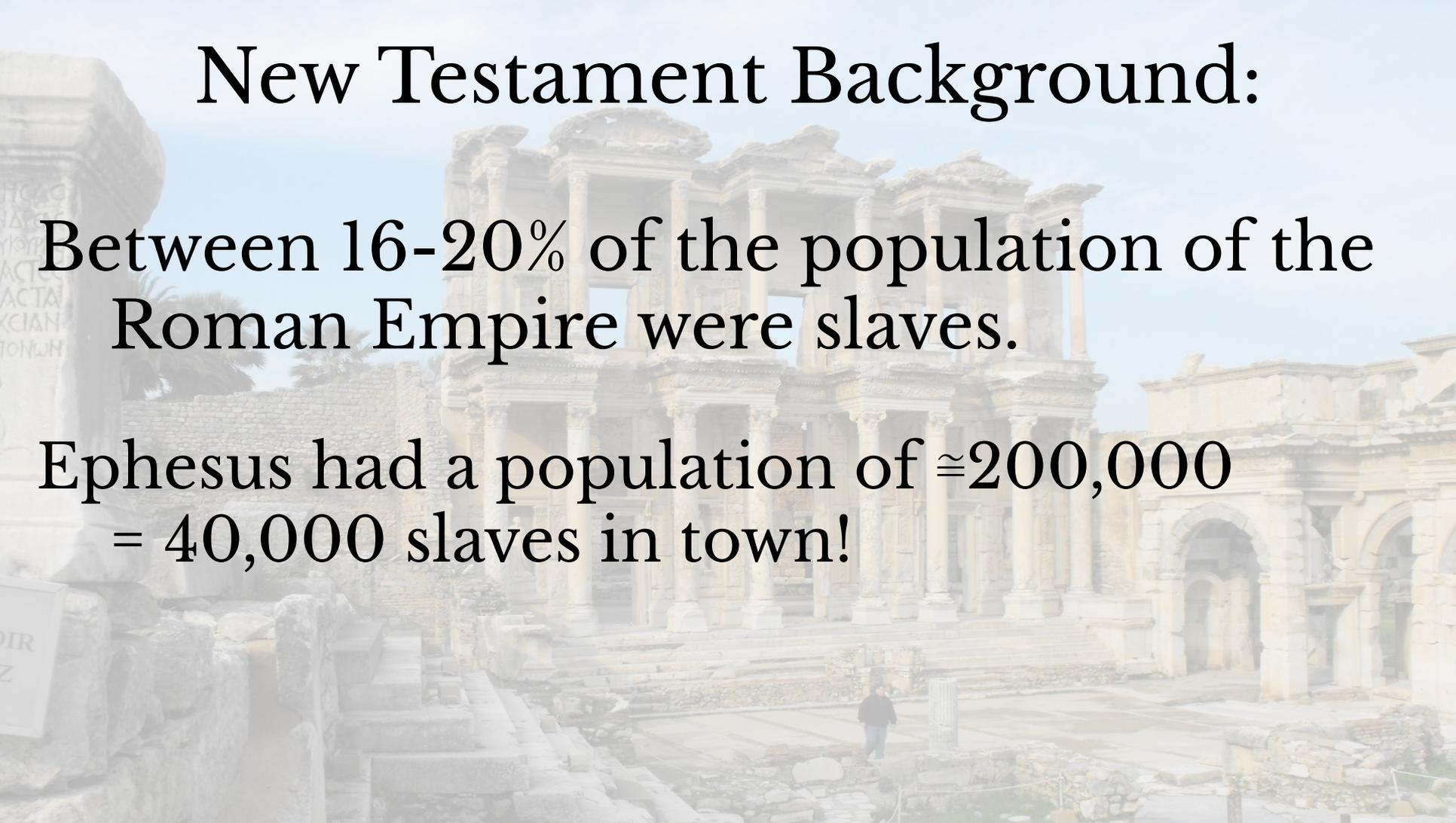
Between 16-20% of the population of the Roman Empire were slaves.



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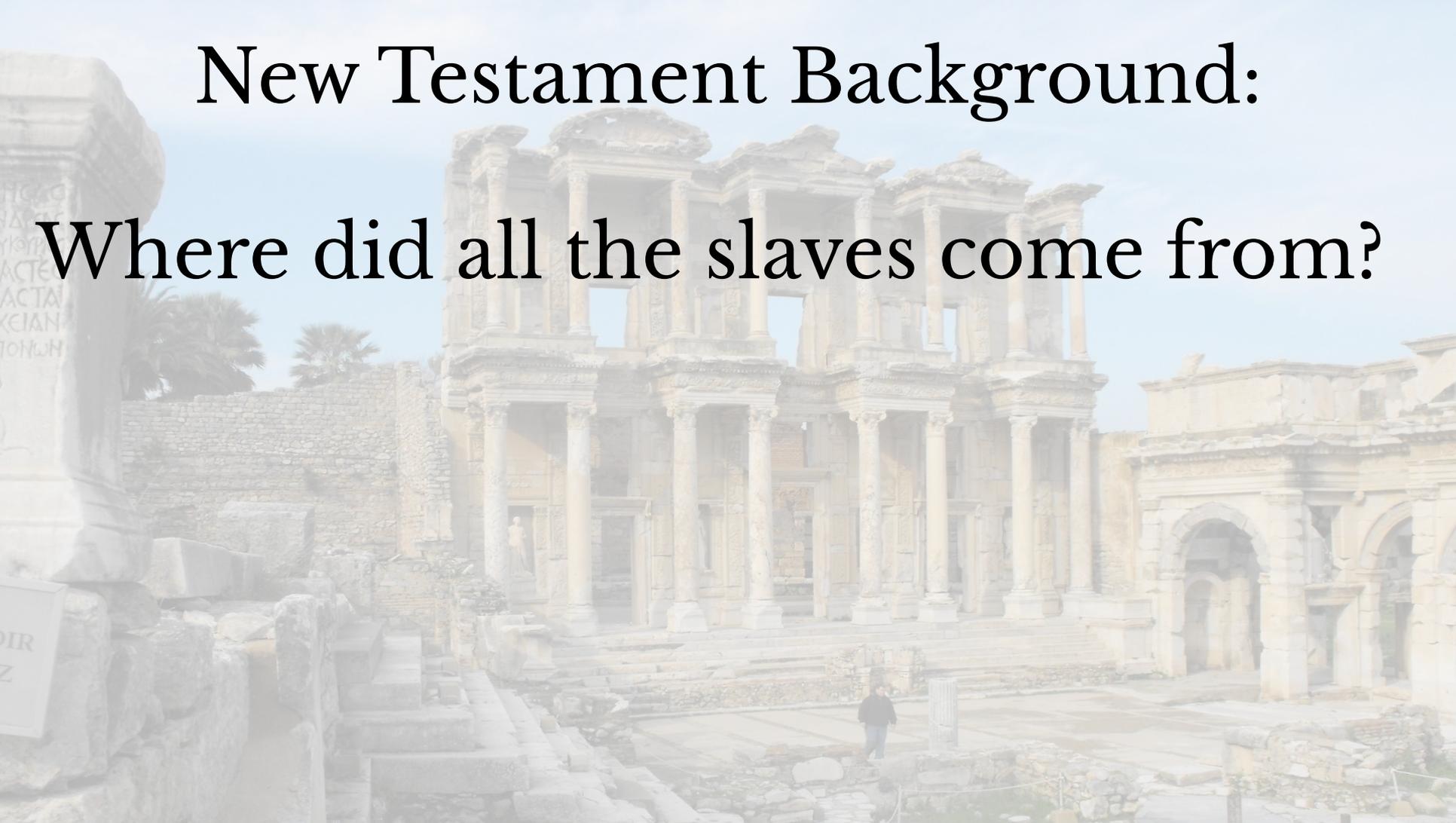
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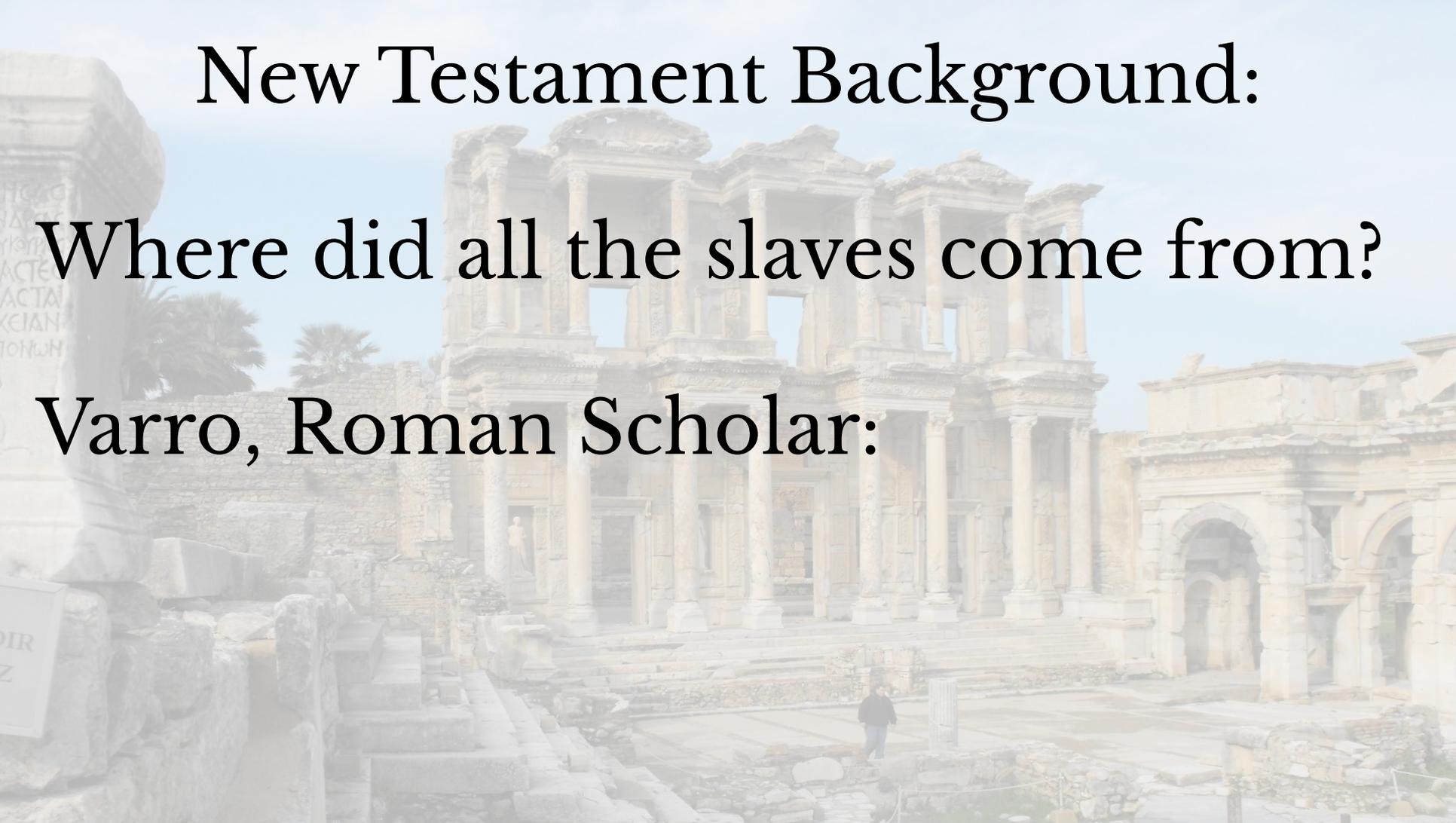
Ephesus had a population of  $\approx 200,000$   
= 40,000 slaves in town!



New Testament Background:

Where did all the slaves come from?

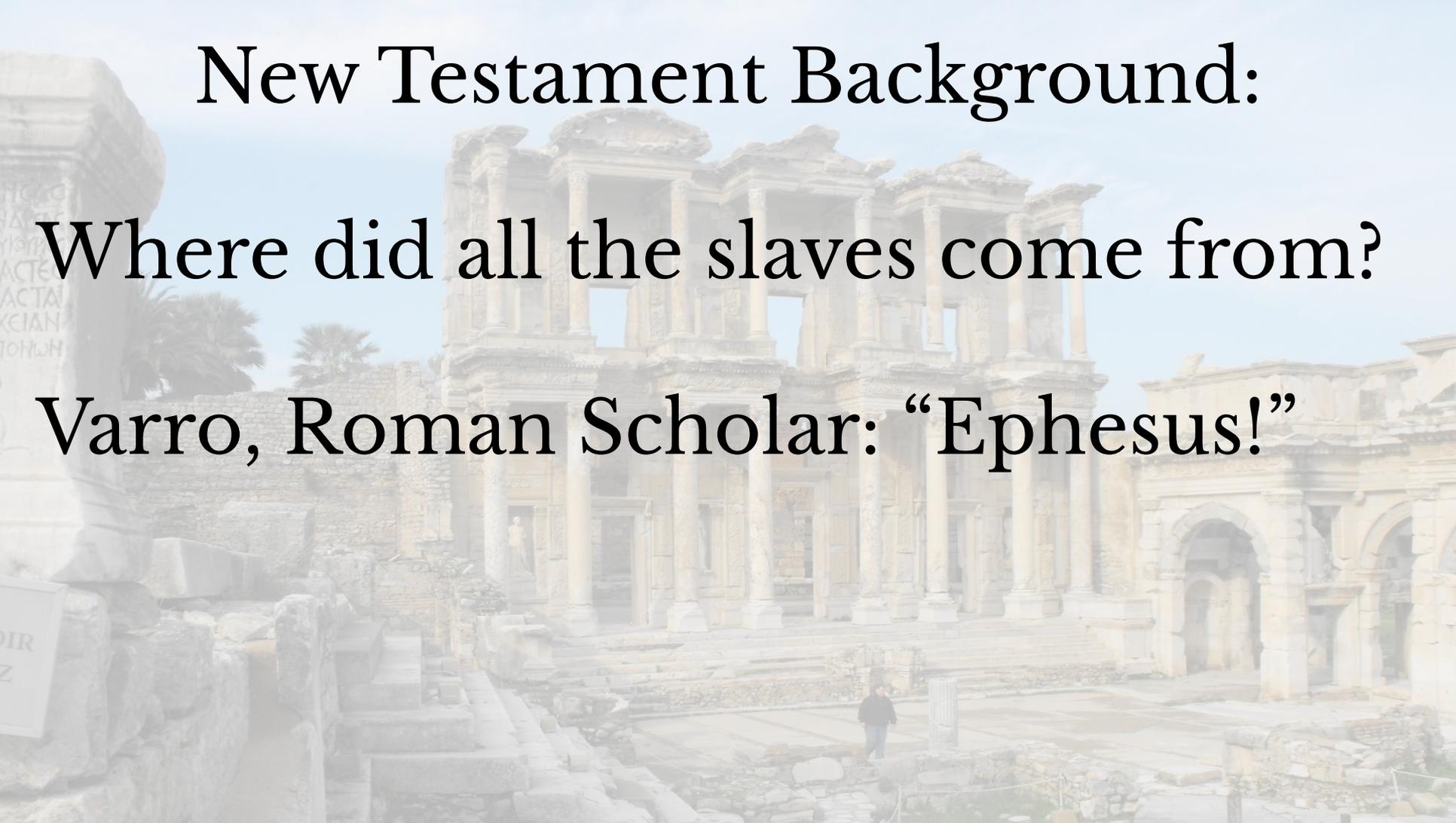




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Where did all the slaves come from?

Varro, Roman Scholar:



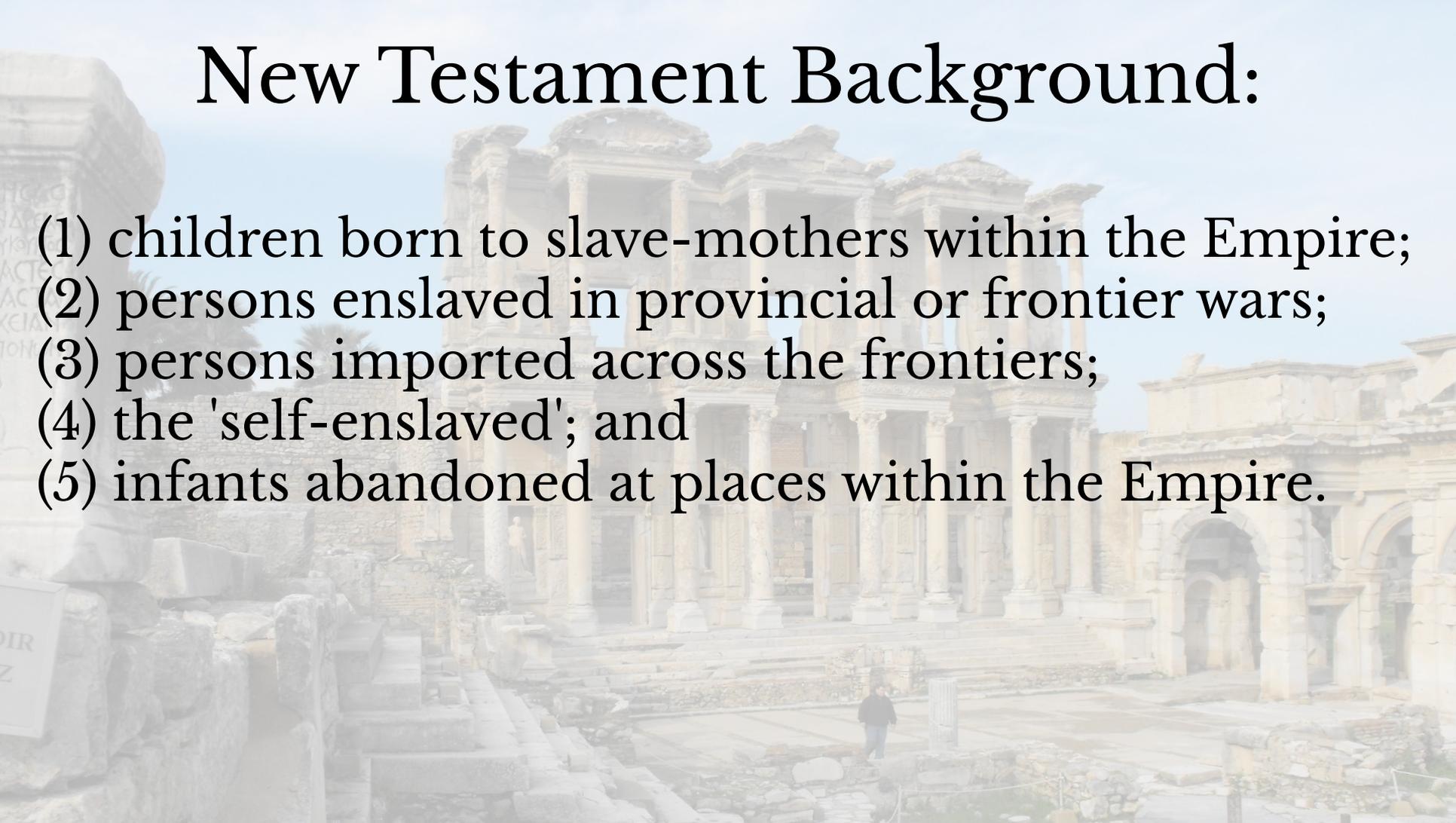
New Testament Background:

Where did all the slaves come from?

Varro, Roman Scholar: “Ephesus!”

# New Testament Background:

- (1) children born to slave-mothers within the Empire;
- (2) persons enslaved in provincial or frontier wars;
- (3) persons imported across the frontiers;
- (4) the 'self-enslaved'; and
- (5) infants abandoned at places within the Empire.



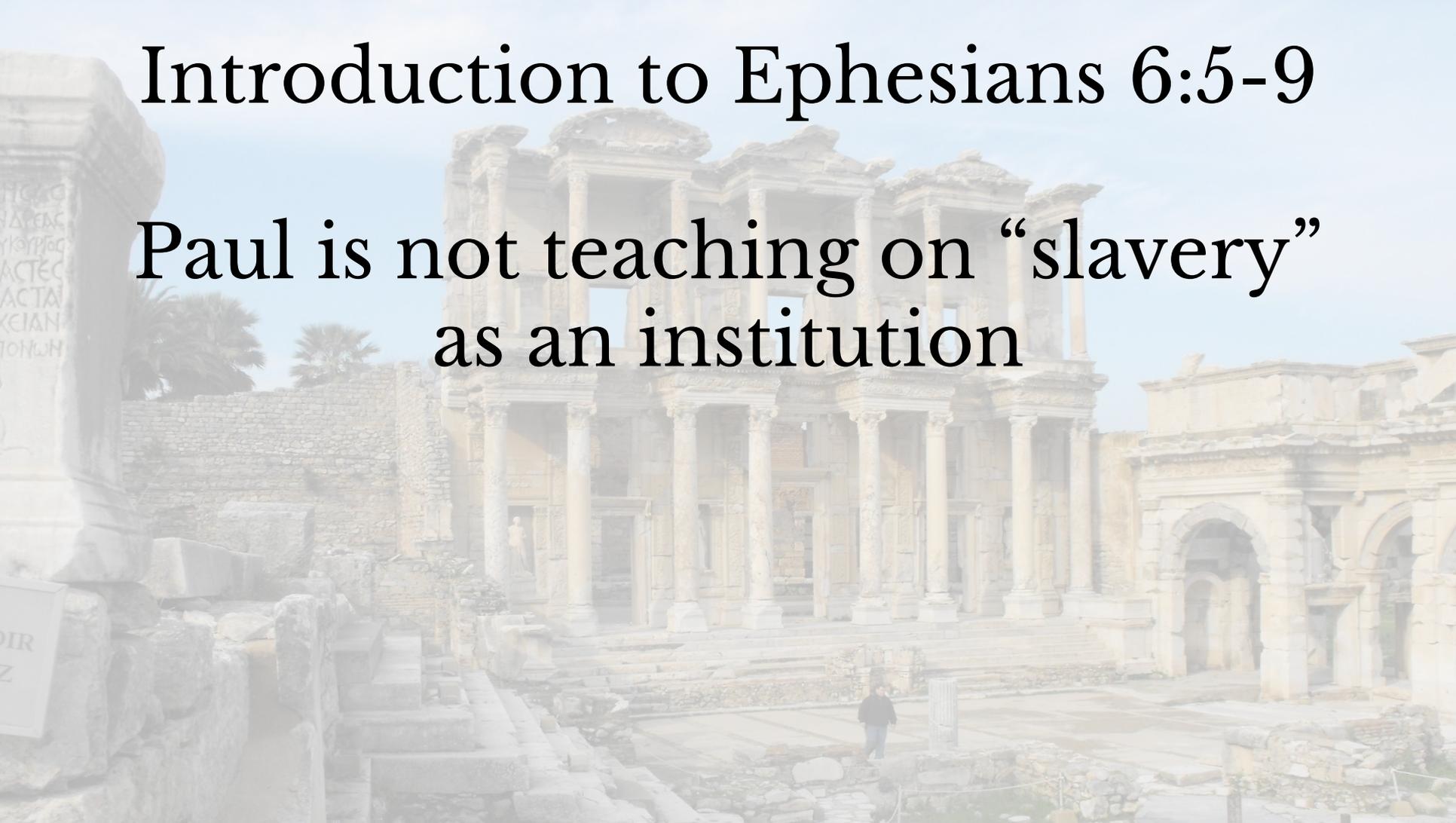
# New Testament Background:

Rome imported slaves from:

Ireland, Scotland, Germania, southern Russia, the Caucasus, the Arabian peninsula, and the Sudan; Mesopotamia and Iran, and Indian Ocean trade (perhaps in the main from Somalia) and from Saharan trade.

# Introduction to Ephesians 6:5-9

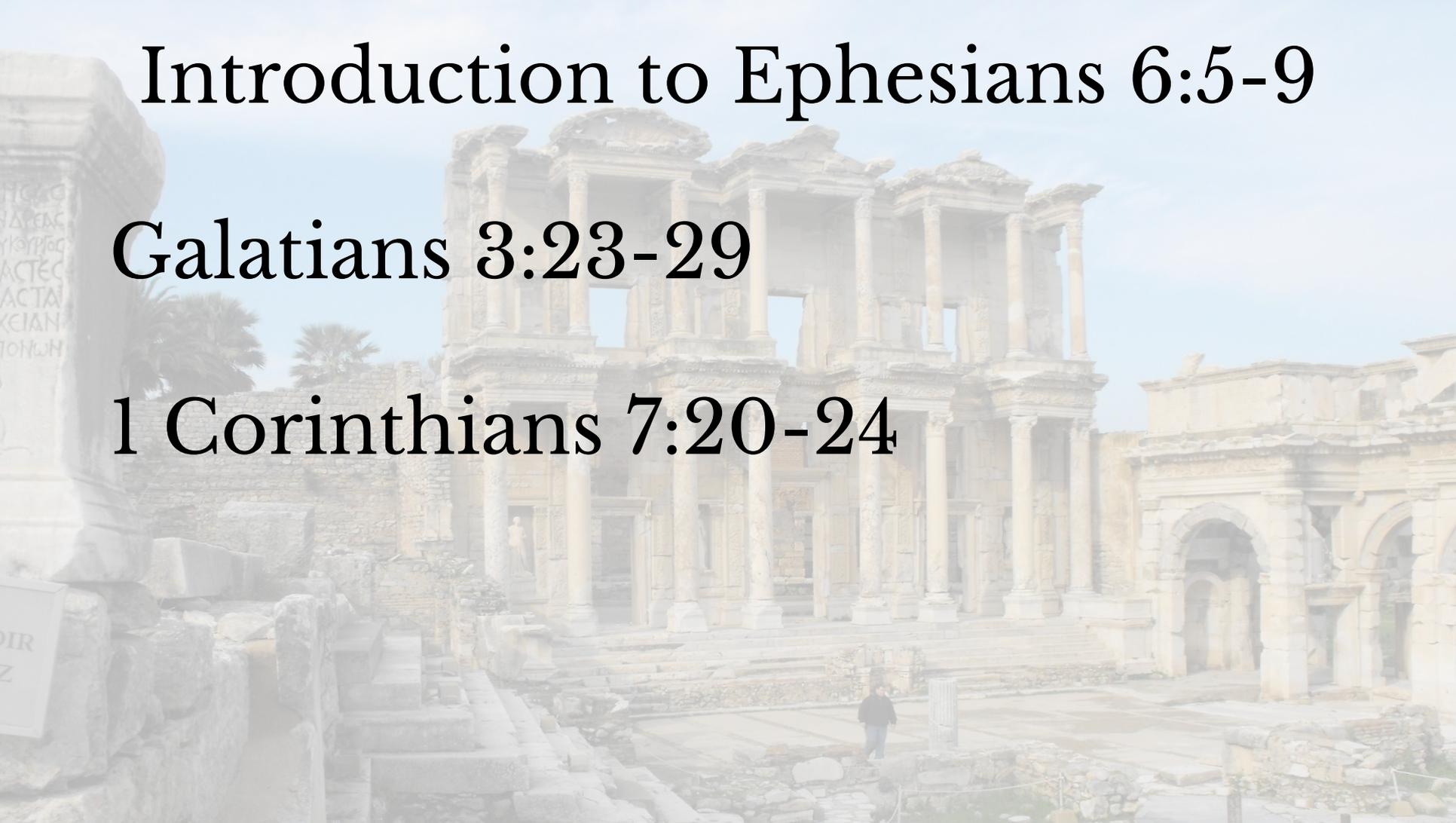
Paul is not teaching on “slavery”  
as an institution



# Introduction to Ephesians 6:5-9

Paul is not teaching on “slavery”  
as an institution

Slavery existed, and there were  
Slaves in the Church.



Introduction to Ephesians 6:5-9

Galatians 3:23-29

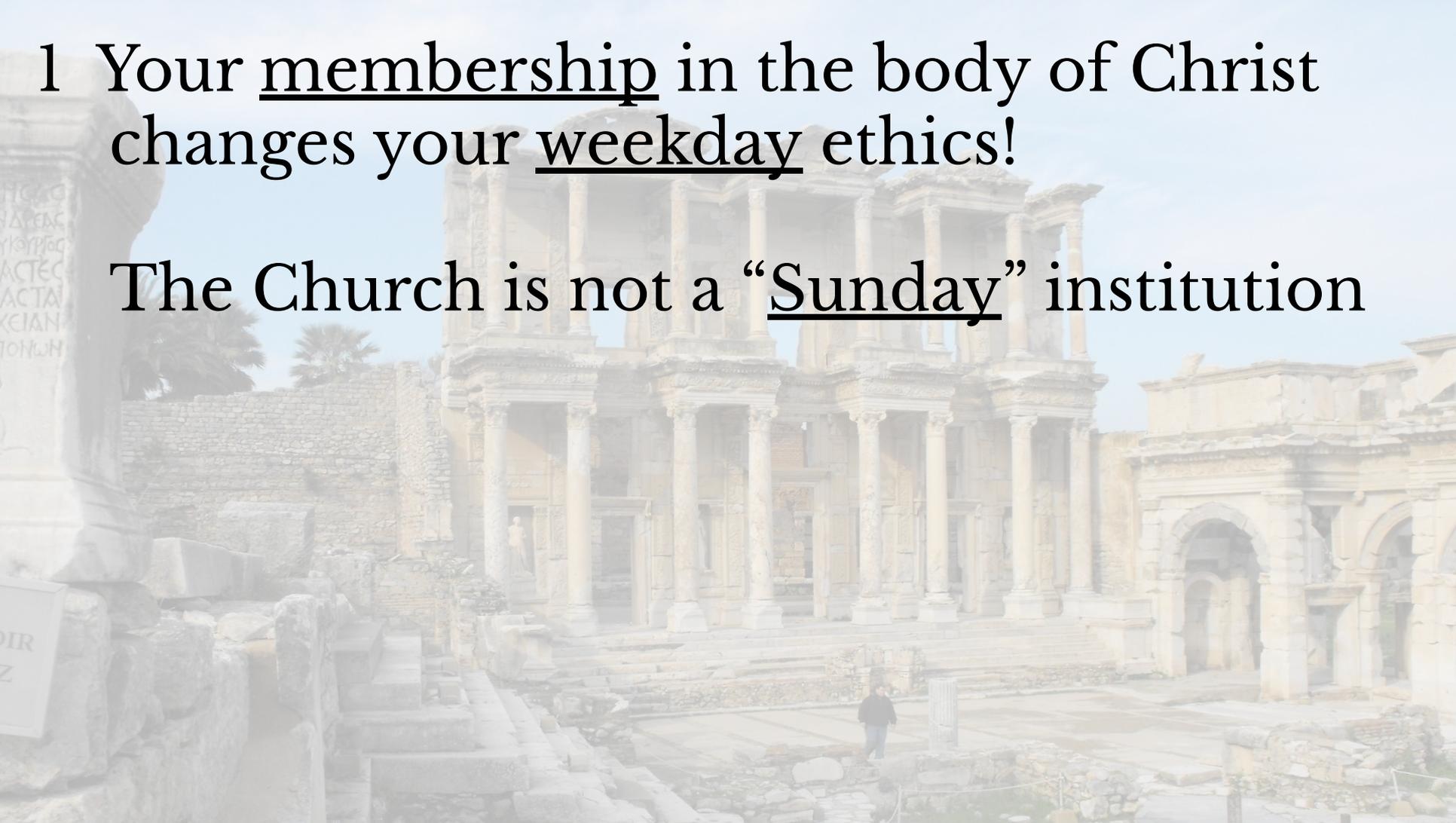
1 Corinthians 7:20-24

1 Your membership in the body of Christ  
changes your weekday ethics!



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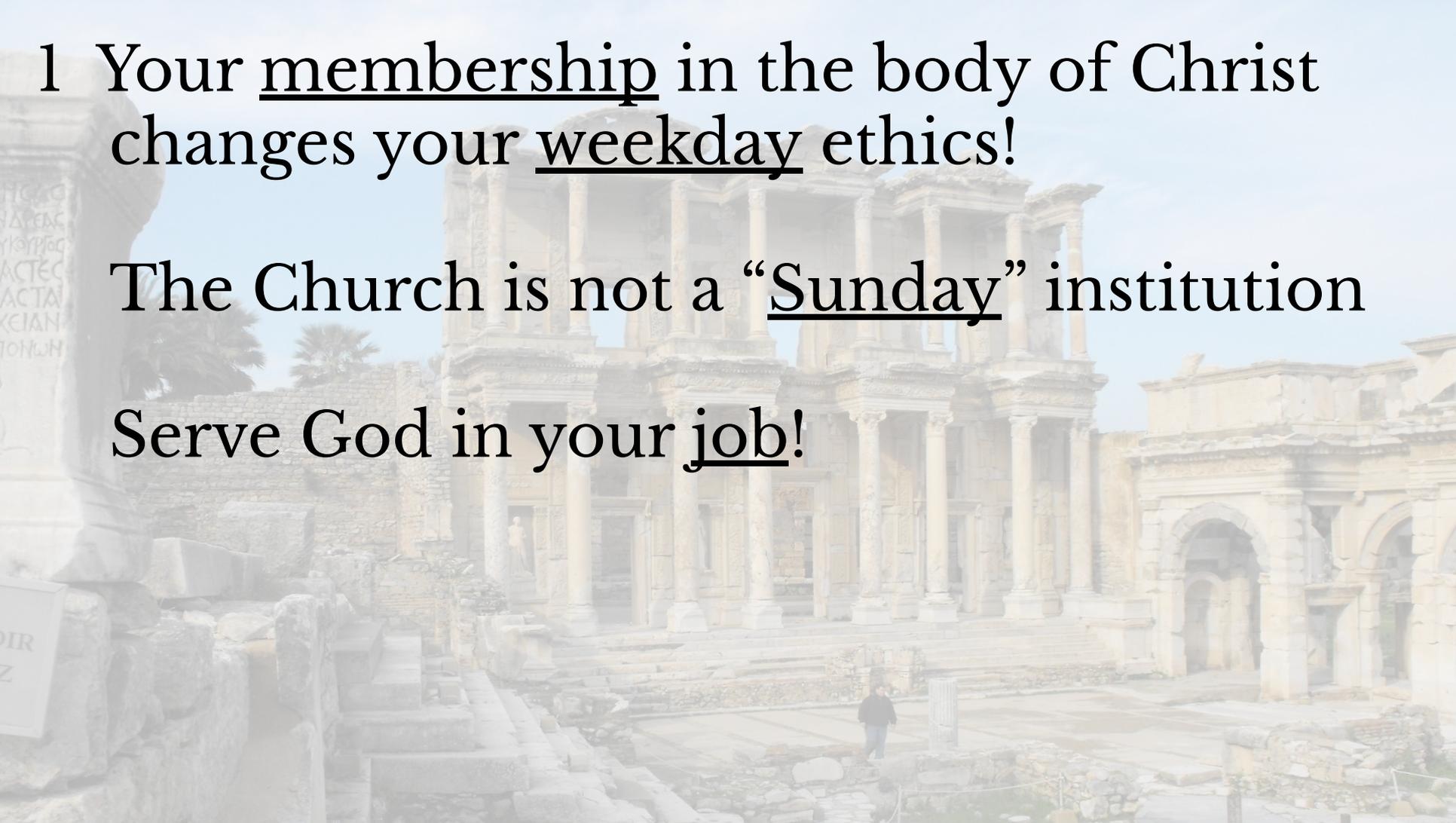
The Church is not a “Sunday” institution



1 Your membership in the body of Christ changes your weekday ethics!

The Church is not a “Sunday” institution

Serve God in your job!

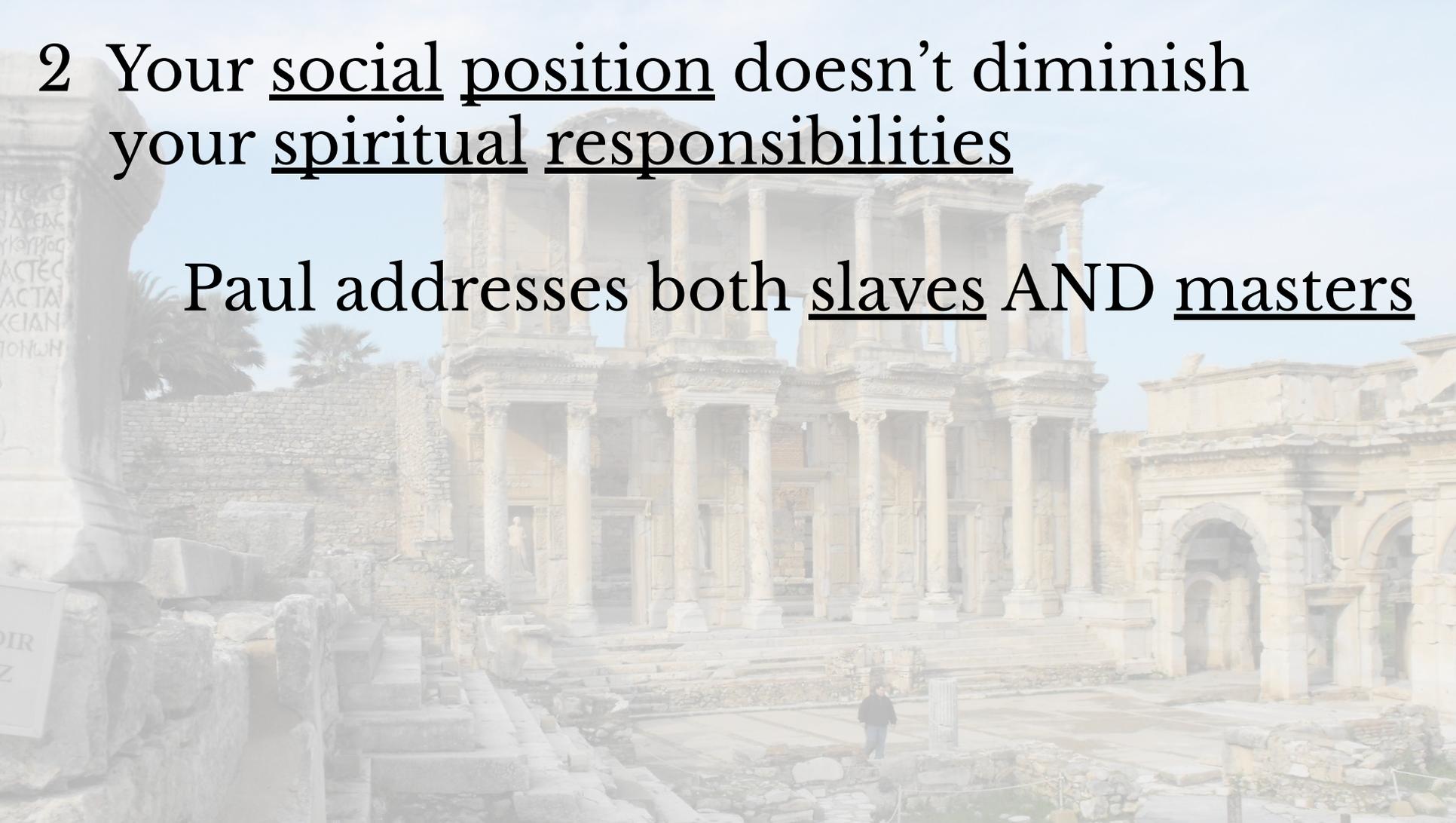


## 2 Your social position doesn't diminish your spiritual responsibilities



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Paul addresses both slaves AND masters

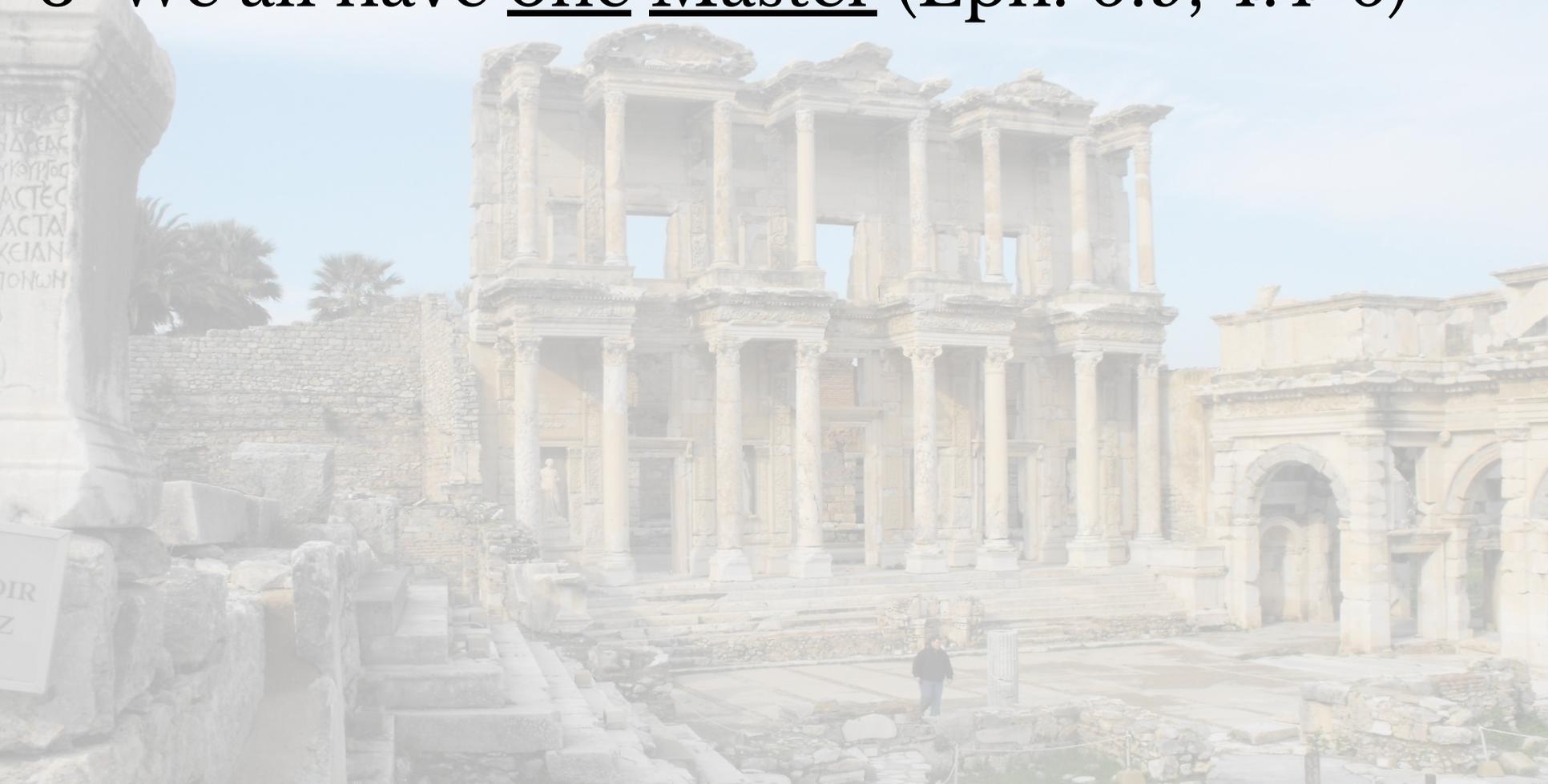


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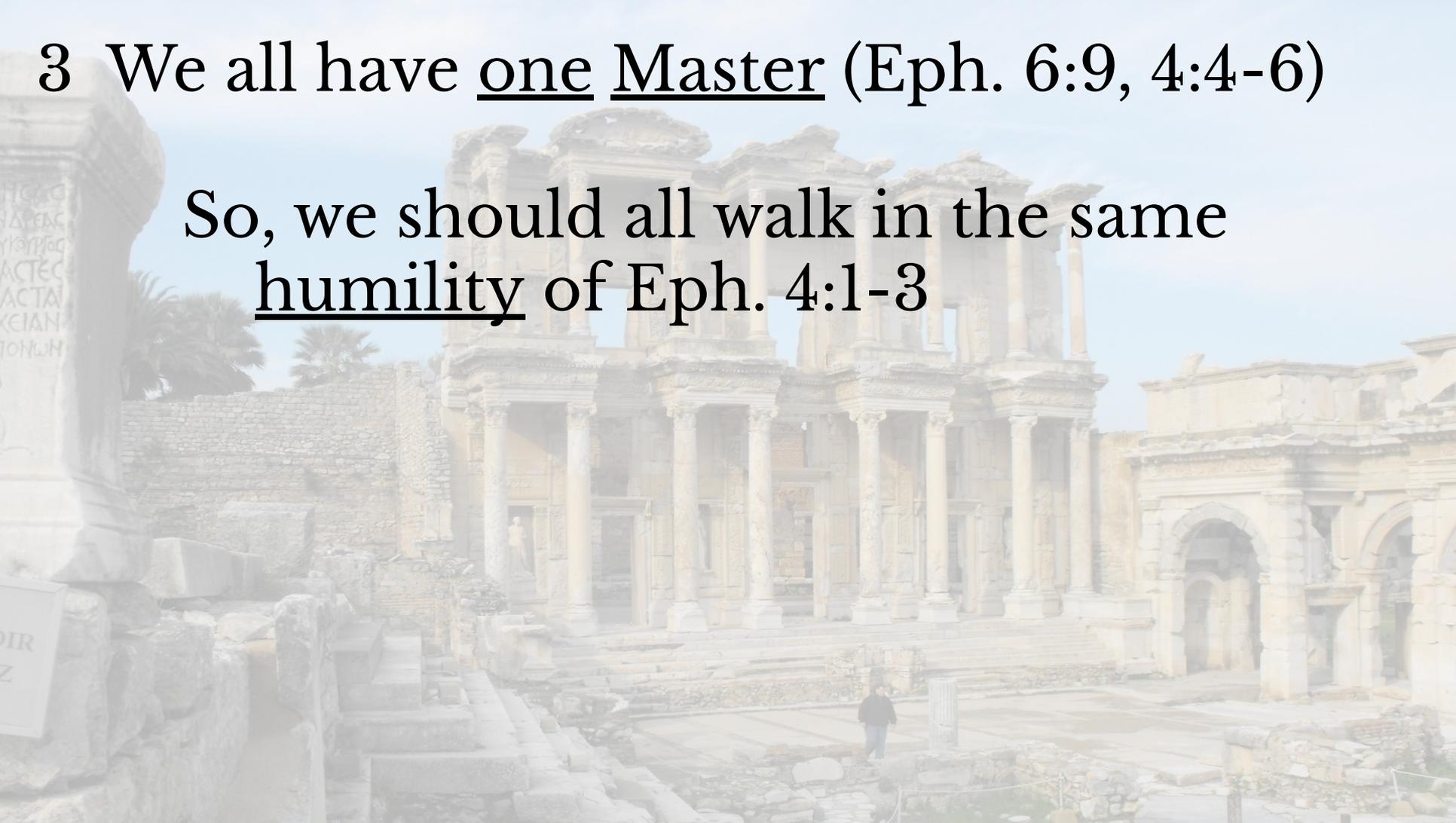
Being "in charge" doesn't excuse you from serving God

# 3 We all have one Master (Eph. 6:9, 4:4-6)



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So, we should all walk in the same  
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humility of Eph. 4:1-3

Eph. 6:9 - “Do the same things to them!”

# 4 Our ultimate reward is in Heaven (6:9)

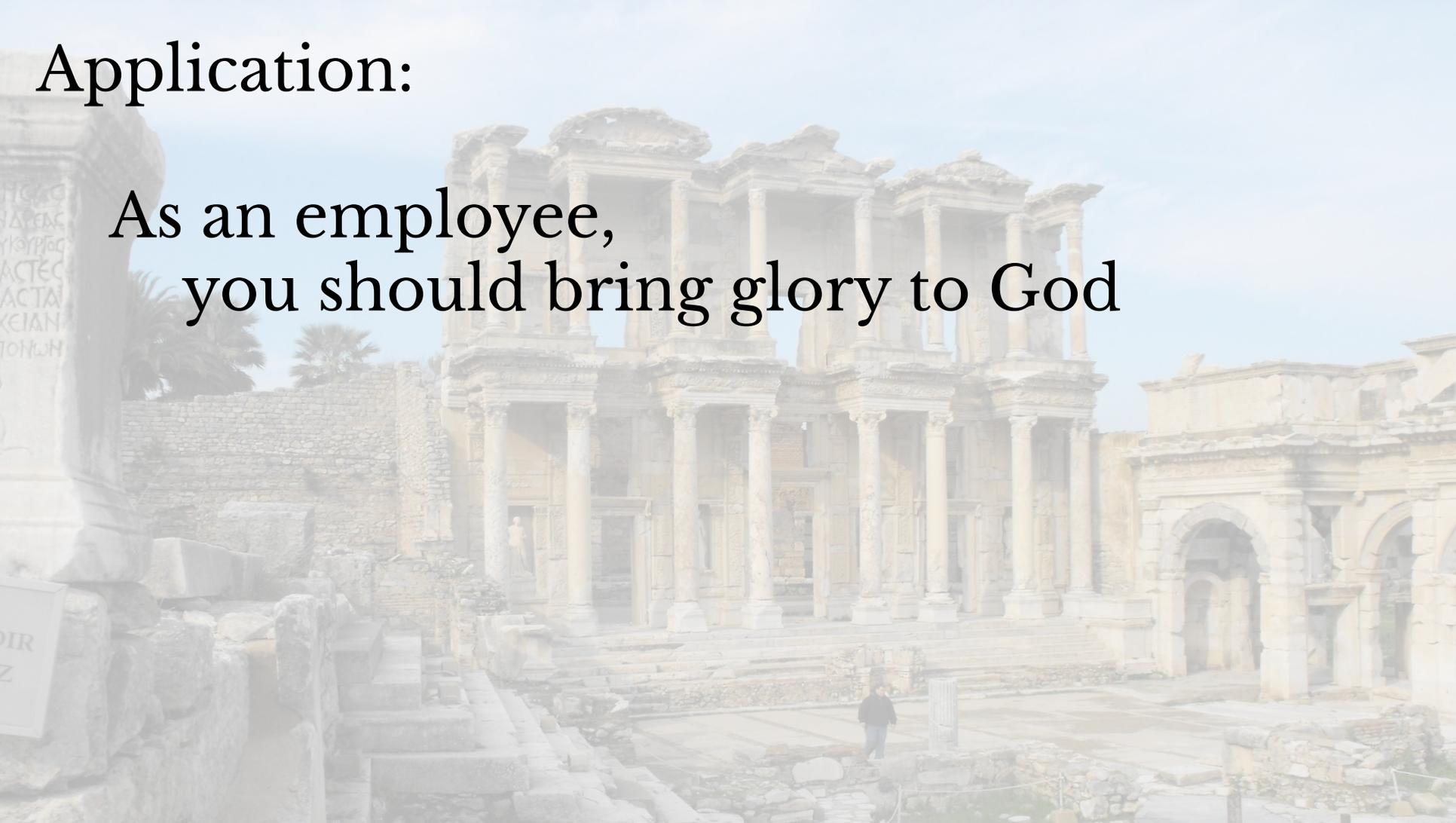


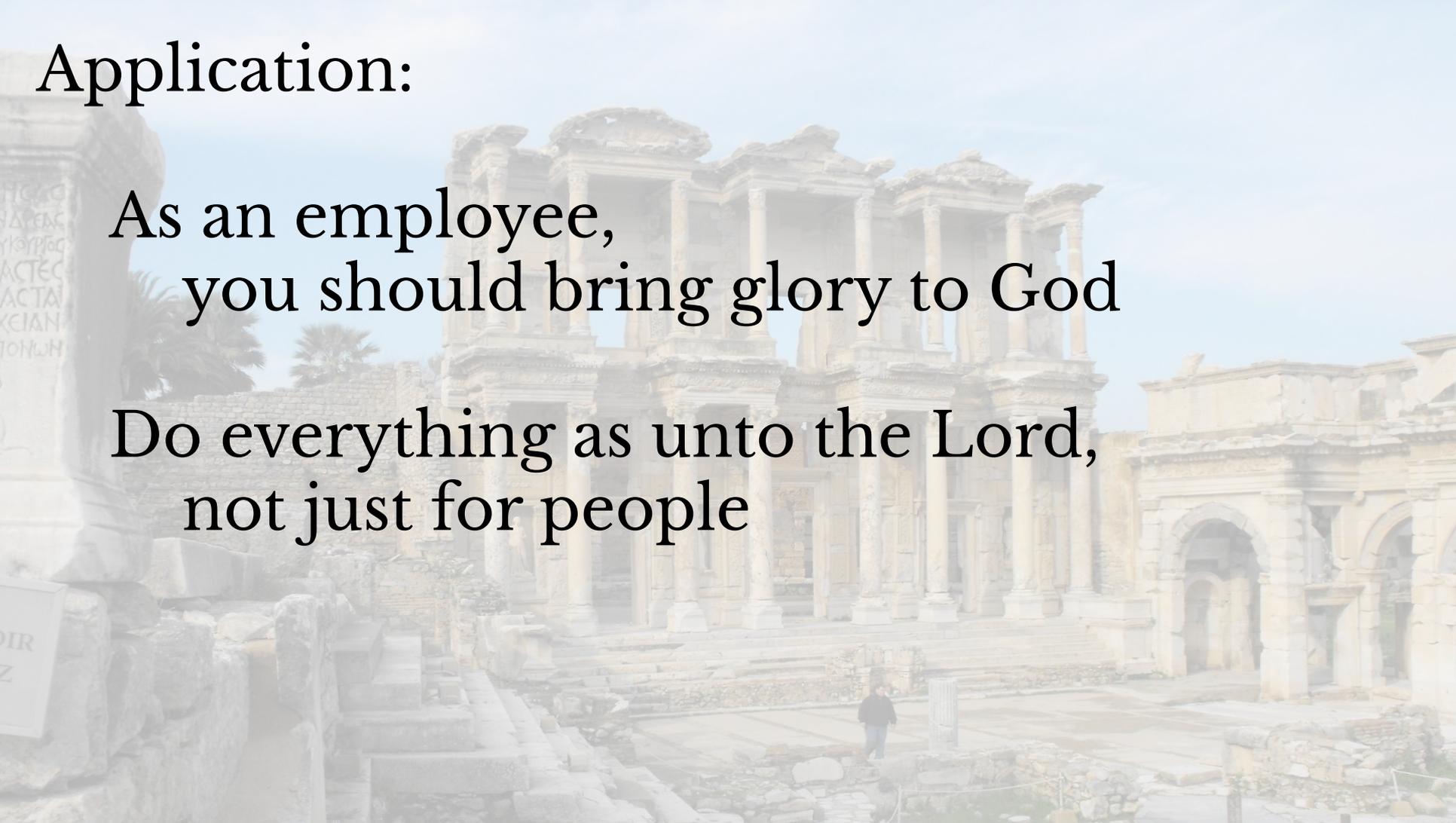
Application:



Application:

As an employee,  
you should bring glory to God

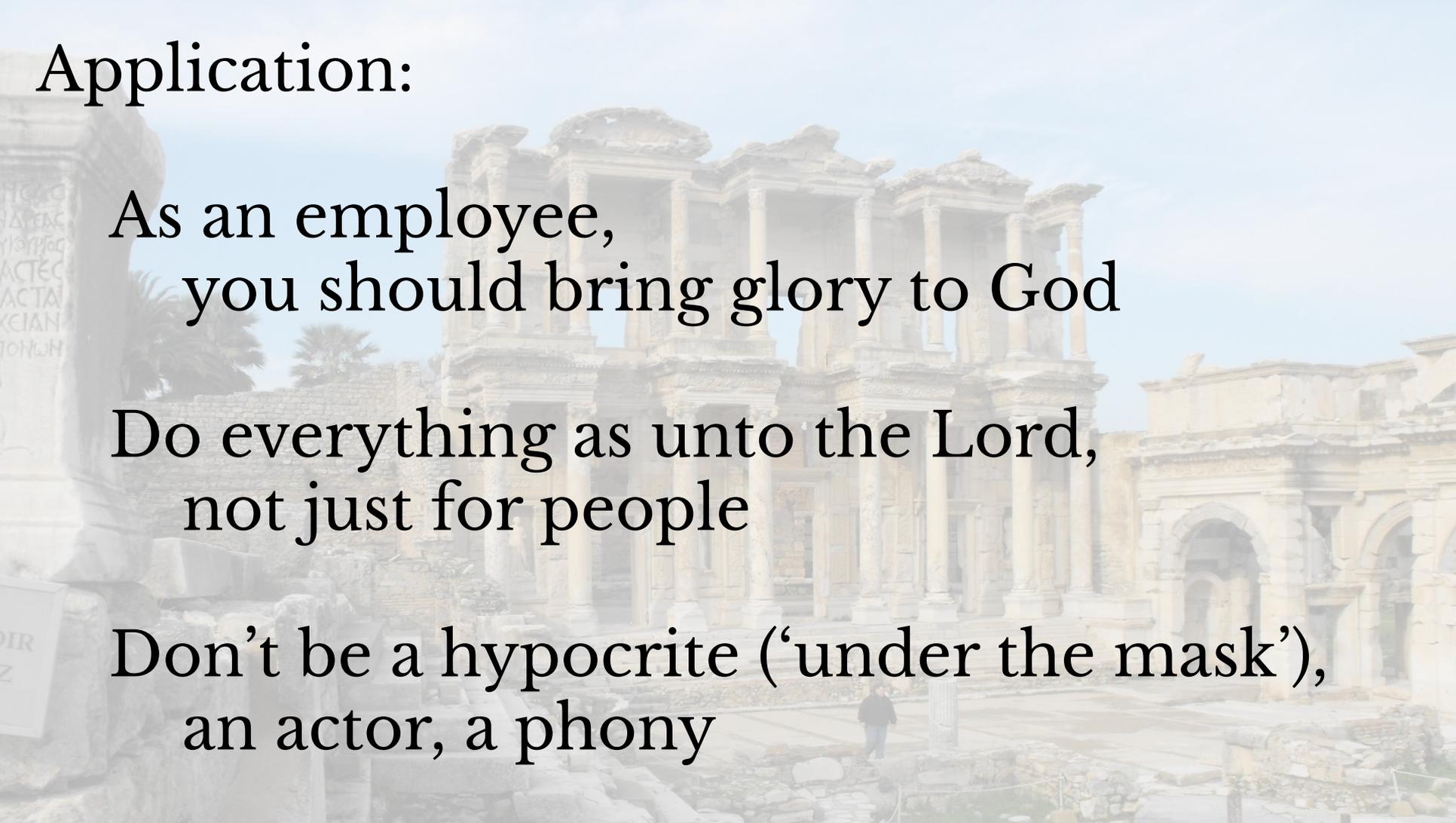




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Do everything as unto the Lord,  
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Do everything as unto the Lord,  
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Don't be a hypocrite ('under the mask'),  
an actor, a phony

Application:

Being a Christian doesn't guarantee  
social/cultural privilege

